

Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health

In Support of HB:6949-An Act Concerning Childhood Vaccinations

To the Distinguished Co-Chairs and Members of the Public Health Committee

March 17, 2015

The Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH) supports *Proposed HB: 6949-An Act Concerning Childhood Vaccinations*. CADH strongly supports and acknowledges the importance of vaccination for disease prevention in children. Vaccine preventable illnesses including measles, mumps and whooping cough are still a threat to the health of the public. These conditions continue to infect children and result in hospitalizations, permanent disability such as paralysis of limbs, hearing loss, brain damage and death. This bill represents an opportunity to increase awareness of vaccine preventable illnesses, the safety of vaccines and the dangers of a lack of a lack of vaccination. The decision to not vaccinate should be an informed one. This legislation would encourage parents to make an informed and educated decision about vaccinating their children.

CADH is a nonprofit organization comprised of Connecticut's 77 local health departments and districts. Since its incorporation in 1996, CADH has and continues to convene, engage, mobilize, and support Connecticut's local health departments and districts to strengthen and assure efficient and effective delivery of public health services. Local health directors are the statutory agents of the Commissioner of Public Health and are critical providers of essential public health services at the local level in Connecticut. Thank you for your consideration.